# Traffic Control Signals

Operations Committee Presentation May 14, 2012





### Function of Traffic Control Signals

- The function of a traffic control signal is to alternate right-of-way between conflicting streams of traffic (both vehicular and pedestrian), with maximum safety and efficiency.
- They are a control device rather than a safety device.





### **City of Greater Sudbury**

- The City currently operates and maintains 117 sets of traffic control signals.
- 5 locations are mid-block or intersection pedestrian signals
- The City also operates flashing beacons at 26 locations.



#### Intersection Traffic Signal



Intersection of Paris and Brady Streets Sudbury





#### Intersection Pedestrian Signal



Paris Street at Southwind Retirement Residence





#### **Overhead Flashing Red Beacon**



Intersection of Cedar and Elgin Streets Sudbury





### Planning and Justification

- New traffic signals can cost over \$200,000 to install.
- Existing traffic signals cost approximately \$5,000 each annually to maintain.
- The City follows the warrants contained on the Ontario Traffic Manual to determine the need for traffic signals





### **Traffic Signal Warrants**

- Based on a number of factors including:
  - Vehicle and pedestrian volumes
  - Roadway speed
  - Intersection geometry
  - Collision data
- Vehicle and pedestrian volumes for the 8 highest hours are considered.





## **Unjustified Signals**

- Result in excessive delay
- Increase fuel consumption
- Increased air and noise pollution
- Increased driver frustration
- Greater disobedience of signals
- Increased use of alternate routes
- Can increase collision frequency





### Justification

- Justification 1 Minimum Vehicle Volume
  - Considers cumulative delay on all approaches
- Justification 2 Delay to Cross Traffic
  - Considers minor road delay when main street volumes are high
- Justification 3 Volume/Delay Combination
  - Used where justification 1 & 2 are more than 80% satisfied
- Justification 4 Collision Experience
  - Requires 5 or more collisions per year over a 3 year period
  - Only collisions that may be corrected with signals are considered such as angle and turning movement types.





#### **Pedestrian Justification**

- Applicable where pedestrians experience excessive delay or hazard due to high traffic volumes.
- Also applies at locations with high pedestrian crossing volumes
- Justification may occur at an unsignalized intersections, or at midblock locations.





#### **Pedestrian Justification**







### **Traffic Signal System**

- City operates a traffic signal system with central monitoring and control capabilities.
  - Can communicate with nearly all traffic signals over a network of copper wire, radio, telephone, and fiber optics.
- Operate progressive signal systems along all major arterials with closely spaced signals such as LaSalle Blvd; Barry Downe Rd; Paris and Notre Dame; Lorne St; Brady St; Regent St. and Elm St.





#### Arterial Signal System







### Benefits of Signal Progression

- Reduced vehicle delay
- Number of stops reduced
- Reduced fuel consumption
- Reduced air pollution
- Improved safety
- Reduced cutting though neighbourhoods to avoid signals
- Improved emergency response





#### **New Devices**

- Pedestrian Countdown Timers
  - Installed at 79 intersections
- Accessible Pedestrian Signals
  12 intersections
- Uninterruptable Power Supplies
  - 62 intersections
- Video Detection
  - Operate approximately 20 cameras









APS

#### **Countdown Timer**







#### APS and Countdown Timer Demonstration







#### Video Detection



Live video feed from Lasalle/Notre Dame Intersection





## **Questions?**

